



MUSIC AS A WEAPON

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"A Scandinavian, for instance, has no good reasons to emotionally react negatively to "Nazism"... German 'Nazis' behaved exemplary in Denmark and Norway during WWII... In Norway only about 0.03% of the population was killed (and the vast majority was actually killed by the Allies)."

Varg Vikernes, The Nazi Ghost, July 2005.

With the expansion of new arrivals from the third world countries in the Western countries, many voices and movements began shouting against those new citizens. The term "Hate crimes" started to float in media and political debates...And behind the "Heil Hitler" and the "Mein Kampf", the nazi "bible", many movements have been working in the shadows in order to recruit "new bloods" by using different ways...One of their hidden weapons is music.

When the trend turns to a cult....

During decades, neo Nazi movements used sophisticated forms of "violent music" to hand over subliminal or, in later eras, clear and direct messages. When Punk music and lifestyle was "trendy" in the seventies, many music bands used that movement to create an entire concept and subculture of the typical neo Nazi, which will be a standard model until today: (the) Skinhead (movement).

Through years, Punk music will be replaced by a "Heavier" and "more powerful" sound and with violent sound come violent texts. When Trash Metal saw the light in mid-eighties, many subgenres started to develop their own style: Death, Black Metal...The more obscure and underground the subgenres was, the more popular it will gain success in the neo Nazis communities: due to some violent and "satanic" "incidents" which were labeled to those subgenres. By the time the "trend" has become a real concept. Music melds neo Nazi ideology with ethnic European paganism: National socialist black metal (NSBM) which is a black metal by artists who promote "national socialism" or similar beliefs through their lyrics and imagery.

The wolf is the key

One of the keys and founding of NSBM through its books and thoughts around the nationalism and nazism is Varg Vikernes, (varg means wolf in norwegian) a Norwegian musician and a writer who remains a key figure in the scene – and was arrested and jailed shortly after for murder (21 years).

Vikernes is usually seen as the main person which has brought the racist ideology into the black metal scene, even if there was no "visible" political touch his music. Due to the influence of the neo-Nazi organization Zorn 88 (later called the national socialist movement of Norway) and the white aryan resistance that he had been in touch with in early 90s, Varg wrote in 1993 a « manifesto » called « Vargsmal » (speech of the wolf) perceived as major inspiration for the NSBM community, a book where Vikernes lays the foundation stone of a « nationalistic, racist and anti-Christian revolt », and nationalism.

But the impact of this music on neo nazi movements and Europe in general is not a spectacular one: NSBM artists are still a minority within black metal music. Most of black metal artists reject NSBM bands and claim that they do not represent the philosophy and the imagery of Black Metal community.

The sound still underground

Perhaps more than any others, the NSBM bands - most of which are Scandinavian, German, but also a handful of American groups - have taken racist music to new extremes. Lyrical content goes from hate and racist messages to a clear invitation to « purify Europe ». Their Concerts are banned in several countries, some of them manage to perform in underground gigs with a help from their labels who promote their « art » as « Cold and Extreme music ». Their headquarters are mainly in Germany, Scandinavian countries and Eastern Europe. Teenagers who seek rebellion and « being different » are their main target . Those kids, pushed by the « supremacy », the « white pride », the extreme sound and imagery delivered by those artists gave us endless crimes under the name of « awaking Europe » those crimes goes from religious ones like churches burning, Quran /Bible desecration to race / xenophobic homicides like the Franz Fuchs case, the Murder of Benjamin Hermansen, or one of the latest incidents which was « blessed » by some NSBM artists, the 2011's Anders Behring Breivik case .